GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2480
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2016
Digitisation of Manuscripts
Rajoria Dr. Manoj

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether our country has the largest collection of manuscripts in the world and if so, the details thereof along with the existing policy of the Government for preservation/conservation and digitisation of the manuscript heritage of the country;

(b) The total number of manuscripts documented, digitized and preserved till date;

(c) The funds allocated by the Government in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, state-wise along with the funds allocated to older universities for preservation, cataloguing and dissemination of manuscripts; and

(d) Whether the Government has undertaken any measures to train the next generation of scholars in various aspects of Manuscripts Studies like languages, scripts and critical editing and cataloguing of texts and conservation of manuscripts?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a)&(b) Ministery of Culture is not aware as to whether India has maximum number of Manuscripts in the world. For documentation, conservation, preservation and digitization of Manuscripts, National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was established by Government of India in the year 2003. The conservation of manuscripts is done through Manuscripts Conservation Centres (MCCs). NMM follows the standards set by National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow (NRLC). NMM has documented 41,29,004 manuscripts, digitized 2.53 crore pages of manuscripts and conserved 3,68,15,051 folios as on date.

(c) Government allocated the following funds to National Misson for Manuscripts during the last three years and the current year:-

Year Budget allocation (in Rs. Lakhs)

2013-14 950.00
2014-15 950.00
2015-16 625.00
2016-17 1200.00

Funds are not allocated state-wise and University-wise for preservation, cataloguing and dissemination of Manuscripts by Government.

(d) NMM organizes workshops on conservation and workshops on Manuscriptology & Palaeography to train scholars in various aspects of conservation of manuscripts and manuscripts studies. Till date NMM has organized 222 conservation workshops in which 6026 numbers of scholars across the country were trained in conservation work. 56 number of basic level and 22 number of advance level Manuscriptology and Palaeography workshops were organized all over the country imparting training to 2019 and 666 scholars respectively.